

Message Text

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60

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

NIC-01 SAJ-01 SCA-01 DRC-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 (ISO) W

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R 231517Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5556

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD BY POUCH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 1101

E.O 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN UR

SUBJ: ACCESS TO EMBASSY

REF: MOSCOW 15924

1. AT EMBASSY SOCIAL FUNCTION JANUARY 22, CONSOFF RAISED QUESTION OF ACCESS TO EMBASSY WITH MFA PROTOCOL DIVISION SECOND SECRETARY PASKHIN--TO WHOM CONSOFFS PRESENTED EMBASSY PROTEST NOTE THIS SUBJECT DECEMBER 21 (REFTEL). RASKHIN STATED THAT MFA DULY INFORMED SOVIET "POLICE AUTHORITIES" OF EMBASSY CONCERN OVER THIS ISSUE, AND HE COMMENTED TO EFFECT: "I TRUST YOU HAVE HAD NO DIFFICULTIES SINCE YOU CALLED ON ME." CONSOFF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ACCESS SITUATION APPEARS IMPROVED OVER PAST TWO TO THREE WEEKS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT IN EMBASSY EXPERIENCE SUCH DIFFICULTIES GENERALLY OCCUR IN CYCLES. CONSOFF EMPHASIZED THAT ALTHOUGH WE DO NOT RELISH SUCH ENCOUNTERS, WE ARE OBLIGED INTERVENE WITH MILITIAMEN POSTED OUTSIDE EMBASSY WHEN THEY DENY ACCESS TO PERSONS SEEKING DISCUSS VISA OR OTHER CONSULAR QUESTIONS. PASKHIN REPLIED THAT THIS IS "UNDERSTANDABLE" AND REITERATED HIS UNDERSTAND THAT SITUATION HAS IMPROVED.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, PROTOCOL THIRD SECRETARY SEMYENOV, EXUDING SELF-SATISFACTION, LET SECOND CONSOFF
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KNOW THAT MFA AWARE OF IMPROVED SITUATION IN FRONT OF

EMBASSY IN PAST SEVERAL WEEKS AND THAT EMBASSY REPRESENTATIONS ON ACCESS ISSUE ARE "NOT IN VAIN." SEMYENOV ATTRIBUTED CHANGED SITUATION TO PASKHIN'S INTEREST IN THE MATTER.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ATTENTION WHICH WE HAVE GAINED FROM MFA IS CLEARLY USEFUL, ACCESS QUESTION IS LIKELY TO REMAIN CONTINUING PROBLEM FOR OPERATION EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION. ON MORNING FOLLOWING THESE DISCUSSION WITH MFA OFFICIALS, FOR EXAMPLE, CONSOFF WAS OBLIGED TO INTERVENE WITH MILITIAMEN ON BEHALF JEWISH EMIGRANT WITH EXIT DOCUMENTS FOR ISRAEL WHO SOUGHT EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN REUNITING INSTEAD WITH FAMILY IN US. ALTHOUGH MILITIAMEN PROMPTLY YIELDED TO CONSOFF, SENIOR MILTIA OFFICER (WHO HAD TAKEN APPLICANT'S EXIT DOCUMENT) MADE USUAL COMMENT THAT ONLY SOVIET POLICE AUTHORITIES COMPETENT TO DECIDE WHETHER VISA APPLICANTS HAVE RIGHT TO ADDRESS THEMSELVES TO AN AMERICAN CONSUL. EXEMPT.
DUBS

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
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